

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application, new claims 8 and 9 having been added as indicated herein. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4-7 are allowed. However, claims 1-3 are still rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over James *et al.* (U.S. Patent No.: 6,539,450), hereinafter referred to as James in view of the admitted prior art (APA).

With respect to independent claim 1, the Examiner maintains many of the same arguments set forth in the previous Office Action, and adds new arguments in the *Response to Arguments* section of the present Office Action. First, Applicant maintains the argument submitted in the previous Response that neither James nor the admitted prior art, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggest at least, “monitoring at the source device a format of the output bit stream of the source device while communications are being maintained between the source device and the sink device to determine if requirements for the system resources have changed” and “releasing at the source device redundant system resources from the source device...,” as set forth in paragraphs (b) and (c) of claim 1, respectively. *See Response dated January 23, 2004.*

Further, Applicant submits that there would not have been any teaching, suggestion, or motivation to combine James with the APA at the time of invention. The Examiner alleges that the APA discloses the limitations set forth in paragraph (d) of claim 1. Also, although the Examiner’s assertions are not completely clear, the Examiner appears to further allege that a skilled artisan in the art would have been motivated to apply step (d) in James in order to set up and disconnect a communication channel between the talker and listener, so that James would

comply with other systems that apply the IEEE1394 standard. Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Applicant submits that the features set forth in step (d) would NOT have been necessary to set up and disconnect a communication channel between the talker and listener, to make the system of James comply with other systems that apply the IEEE1394 standard. That is, it does not necessarily follow, and it is not taught or suggested in either of the applied references, at least that a detection is performed at the sink device of final system resources allocated for communication between the source device and the sink device. Therefore, at least because the features set forth in step (d) would NOT have been necessary to set up and disconnect a communication channel between the talker and listener, to make the system of James comply with other systems that apply the IEEE1394 standard, Applicant submits that the Examiner's statement of motivation to combine is not accurate. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

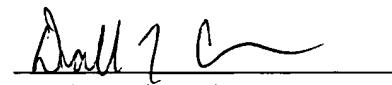
Applicant submits that dependent claims 2 and 3 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1.

Finally, Applicant adds new claims 8 and 9 to round out the scope of protection solicited for the present invention. Applicant submits that these new claims are patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to step (d) of independent claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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